Addendum Form

Description

Antietam Springs Farm (WA-I-143) is located at 13201 Clopper Road, east of Antietam Creek, between Hagerstown and Leitersburg, Maryland. The property, which is approximately 58 acres, contains a collection of agricultural buildings from various time periods. A 1987 residence is also located on the site. A 1975 Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for this property exists; however, the farmhouse described on the form was demolished in 1987, when the new residence was constructed. Other outbuildings present on the site were not fully documented on the 1975 form. The outbuildings consist of: a stone barn, a silo, a concrete-block barn, a frame crib barn, and two small gable-roof storage buildings.

The site itself is located at a curve in Antietam Creek. The landscape is composed of gently rolling hills with prominent limestone outcroppings. The Hagerstown area lies within a geological area called the Great Valley, which runs from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia north to the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. A structural depression in the earth, the Great Valley is a prime source for limestone deposits, which are visible projections throughout the site and surrounding landscape. The abundance of local limestone is evident in the many limestone buildings constructed in the area.

Limestone Barn

The stone barn is the only principal remaining early building. Although the 1975 MHT form¹ refers to the barn as a bank barn, it is not constructed into the side of a hill. Its type is more accurately classified as a Grundscheier Type D barn. This type of barn is unbanked (constructed on level ground) and usually has ventilator slits rather than windows. Some speculation exists as to the ethnic origins of the Grundscheier Type D. Either English or German immigrant groups may be responsible for its evolution.² Both English and German settlers were among the first modern inhabitants of Washington County. It is constructed of local limestone and wood and has a rectangular footprint. The gable ends (north and south elevations) are constructed of limestone.

¹ Directional notations on the 1975 form also appear to be incorrect.

²For a comprehensive explanation of the Grundscheier barn, see Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek *The Old Barn Book*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997), 85-89.

Vertical slit ventilators are set in tiers on each of these facades. A stone tablet is present in the gable area on the north elevation. It has a rounded top and limestone blocks are cut to fit the curve. The previous MHT form states that this tablet contains the date "1792." However, due to the location of the stone, it is not possible to verify this information. The apexes of both gables feature bricks set into the limestone in a circular, radiating pattern.

The east and west elevations are constructed of vertical planks of wood. The west elevation shows evidence of several distinct alterations. Several shed-roof additions project from the barn. One, constructed of wood, is enclosed in the current roofline. Another begins just under the roofline and fills approximately three-quarters of the facade. It has a metal corrugated roof and is supported by simple wood braces. A full-facade, shed-roof addition is located underneath the previous addition. It is constructed haphazardly of vertical wood planks, concrete block, and corrugated metal sheeting, and is supported by simple wood posts. At ground level, the addition is enclosed by thin sheets of wood.

The gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal that has been painted green. Two gable-roof dormers, each containing a pair of wood doors that provide access to the loft area, project from the west facade. Three distinctive metal ridge ventilators are present. They feature metal caps which converge to form a finial with a teardrop-shaped knob. Decorative metal scrollwork is present around the base of each finial.

Access to the barn was not possible. Owners could not be contacted, and it is surrounded by various types of modern wire, metal, and wood fencing that encloses a pen for cattle.

Miscellaneous Agricultural Buildings

Antietam Springs Farm also contains several modest, more recent agricultural buildings.

A short metal stave silo with a metal hemispherical dome is located east of the stone barn.

North of the stone barn is a frame, drive-in crib barn. Oriented on an east-west axis, the rectangular barn is constructed on a rubble foundation. The gable ends have square openings with clipped upper corners. Its sides are sheathed with horizontal planks. Like the stone barn, the roof is covered with standing seam metal that has been painted green.

East of the crib barn is a larger concrete-block barn. It is oriented on an east-west axis, and its gable entrance contains a large, off-center opening for vehicle entrance. This opening contains sliding doors, which are found only on late-nineteenth or twentieth-century barns. The east and west elevations are punctuated by small windows, and gable roof dormers are present on the roof.

North of the newly constructed house is a small (5' x 10') frame gable-roof building that is currently used for storage. A small (4' x 4') concrete block storage building is located west of the agricultural complex of buildings. The ages of both of these buildings are undetermined.

Evaluation of Significance

Agricultural History

The city of Hagerstown, founded in 1762, grew to regional prominence as the county seat and as an important transportation hub. Its rural surroundings, meanwhile, have historically constituted one of the most fertile regions in the state of Maryland. While the rural areas of Washington County are not as well documented as the city of Hagerstown, the information that does exist places the Antietam Springs Farm in a local agricultural context.

Settlers began to arrive in what is now Washington County by 1732; the majority of the early pioneers were German, while others were of English, Scotch, Swiss, and French descent.³ Most of these settlers did not arrive directly from Europe, but rather had lived in eastern Maryland or Pennsylvania before migrating to the Hagerstown area.⁴ Most of these settlers relied on farming for their livelihoods. In the eighteenth century, most farms in the area consisted of about 200 acres each; farms of this size and smaller continued to be common into the nineteenth century.⁵

While the early character of the area, expressed in the religion, architecture, and language, exhibited the German roots of many of the settlers, these traits began to be diluted in the early nineteenth century as the area became more populous and diverse.⁶ Throughout the nineteenth century, the creation of new transportation links, including the "Old National Road" and various railroad lines, connected the area to the wider world and brought dramatic increases in population.

As Hagerstown boomed due to the increasing importance of its railroad links, the agricultural areas

³ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, Vol. II (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968 [reprint of 1882 edition]), 981.

⁴ Paula Stoner, "Early Folk Architecture of Washington County," Maryland Historical Magazine 72, no. 4 (winter 1977), 512-513.

⁵ "Poor Adam! How Could Anyone Resist A Juicy Apple?" The Morning Herald (Hagerstown), 31 August 1965. Vertical Files, Washington County Historical Society.

⁶ Leonore Hamilton Wilson, "Hagerstown, Maryland, 1735-1935," Vertical file, Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library.

of Washington County prospered as well. An 1867 description of the area described the county's agricultural attributes:

The soils of this county are very fertile, being for the most part of the very best class of clay limestone soils, with occasional varieties of shaley soils, all susceptible of [sic] high and easy improvement. The agriculture of this county is in a highly improved condition and as a result, large crops of wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn and all the crops and vegetables and fruits suited to the latitude, are produced of fine quality and in great abundance.

Wheat was the most important and most commonly cultivated crop in the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1880, there were nearly 57,000 acres of wheat fields in cultivation, as compared with about 32,000 acres of corn, and 2,900 acres of oats. Washington County was at that time the leading county in the state in the amount of wheat produced per acre, with a total of over 25 bushels per acre (Montgomery County had the next highest yield, at over 17 bushels per acre). New crops became important toward the end of the nineteenth century. An 1887 report stated that "apples of every variety" were "grown to great perfection," and that peaches and grapes had recently been successfully introduced.

Agriculture remained an important component of the Washington County economy into the twentieth century. According to the 1950 Farm Census, the county's income from all commercial farm products totaled approximately nine million dollars. Berries and orchards (apple and peach), as well as dairy farming, were the main sources of agricultural income, with wheat, corn, hogs, beef cattle, and poultry also significant, and raspberries and cantaloupes becoming more popular. The county was an important supplier of agricultural produce to the urban markets of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Agriculture remains a mainstay of the county's character and economy. According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were over 126,000 acres in cultivation in Washington County that year, including

⁷ James Higgins, "A Succinct Exposition of the Industrial Resources and Agricultural Advantages of the State of Maryland," 1867. Vertical Files, Washington County Historical Society.

⁸ Scharf, p. 974.

⁹ "Hagerstown: An Illustrated Description of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland" (Hagerstown: Issued by the Mail Publishing Company, 1887). Vertical Files, Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library.

¹⁰ "Hagerstown, Maryland: At the Crossroads of History and Commerce," brochure printed by the Hagerstown Chamber of Commerce, n.d. (ca. 1950s). Vertical Files, Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library.

6,264 acres of wheat for grain and 15,821 acres of corn for grain or seed. Over 25,000 acres were devoted to what the census described as "Hay-alf[alfa], other, wild, silage." In keeping with historic trends, the average size of the 768 farms counted in the census was 164 acres. The market value of all agricultural products sold by county farmers was over \$60 million. 11

Architectural and Historical Evaluation

Antietam Springs Farm was originally owned by the Hartle family, who occupied the site from perhaps as early as 1760 until 1916.¹² Many branches of the Hartle family were present in Washington County during this period, and no data has been located that distinguishes this branch of the family or later occupants of Antietam Springs Farm.

Similarly, little is known about the farming practices of Antietam Springs Farm, but many limestone barns of similar size are present throughout the area, suggesting it was not a comparatively large-scale agricultural operation. Agricultural or census information and other sources do not give specific information on Antietam Springs Farm, but it is likely that wheat, the predominant crop in Washington County, was grown here.

Other outbuildings on the site date to more recent periods of construction.¹³ No documentary evidence concerning the metal stave silo exists. However, metal silos did not appear until after 1945, and hemispherical domes are the most recent roof form to top silos. Therefore, this is a recent example of a silo, and is not contemporary with the site's early agricultural use.

It seems likely that the frame example of a drive-in crib barn is later than the stone barn, since the latter would have been constructed to house all farm-related functions at the time. Drive-in crib barns are a common form in the Midwest and eastern United States. They are difficult to date since they have been used continuously since approximately the eighteenth century. Certain features of the crib barn point to a later construction date than the stone barn. The portions of the crib barn flanking the opening are narrow, allowing little space for corn storage, which would have been necessary in the era prior to the widespread use of the silo. Also, if this building were used

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1997 Census of Agriculture.

¹²For a more complete chain of title, see Maryland Historical Trust. Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, "Antietam Springs Farm" (WA-I-143). 1975.

¹³Much of the evaluatory information in the current form is based on information provided in Noble and Cleek, which presents a comprehensive discussion regarding the use of features as dating tools for agricultural buildings.

primarily for corn storage, the horizontal planks on the east and west elevations would have larger spaces between them for ventilation. Barns such as this one, with narrow sides and more solid construction were usually built to shelter mechanical farm equipment.

This opening contains sliding doors, which are found only on late-nineteenth or twentieth-century barns. The east and west elevations are punctuated by small windows, which are common on twentieth-century barns. Gable-roof dormers, rarely present on barns prior to the late nineteenth century, indicate a similar construction date. Additionally, concrete blocks were no used in barn construction until the early twentieth century when machines to make the blocks became available to farmers in rural areas. Therefore, both the materials and form of the concrete-block barn indicate a twentieth-century construction date.

The small storage buildings are of undetermined dates. The concrete-block building is most likely a twentieth-century construction. It is possible that the frame building is earlier, but it cannot be dated at this time.

Evaluation of Significance

Antietam Springs Farm is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. The farm is not associated with any significant events or persons at the national, state, or local levels. No members of the branch of the Hartle family associated with Antietam Springs Farm appear to have impacted the area in significant ways, and no later occupants of Antietam Springs Farm are significant figures in local history.

More obvious than the lack of associated history is the loss of integrity suffered by the individual buildings and the site as a whole. Although agriculture was prominent in this portion of Washington County, this farmstead retains little integrity due in large part to the demolition of the original farmhouse and the construction of a new residence. The limestone barn is not a significant or unique example of such a building. Its integrity has been severely compromised by the shed-roof additions on its west facade which overpower its historic configuration. The gable-roof dormers are likely a late-nineteenth or twentieth-century alteration, as this shape of dormer was rarely used on barns prior to the end of the nineteenth century. Although the 1975 MHT form states that the barn "is significant as a dated example of such a structure," other local examples retain their individual integrity and are located on sites that successfully convey the feeling and association of a late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century farmstead. On Clopper Road alone, several other limestone barns with high degrees of integrity exist. These barns retain their original materials and configuration, and several are elements of largely intact late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century farmsteads whose outbuildings and farmhouses are extant.

Other agricultural buildings on the site are not distinguished as excellent examples of their type, and they fail to portray the evolution of the site as a working farmstead. None of these buildings are architecturally distinguished in design, materials, or craftsmanship, and no later period of significance is evident.

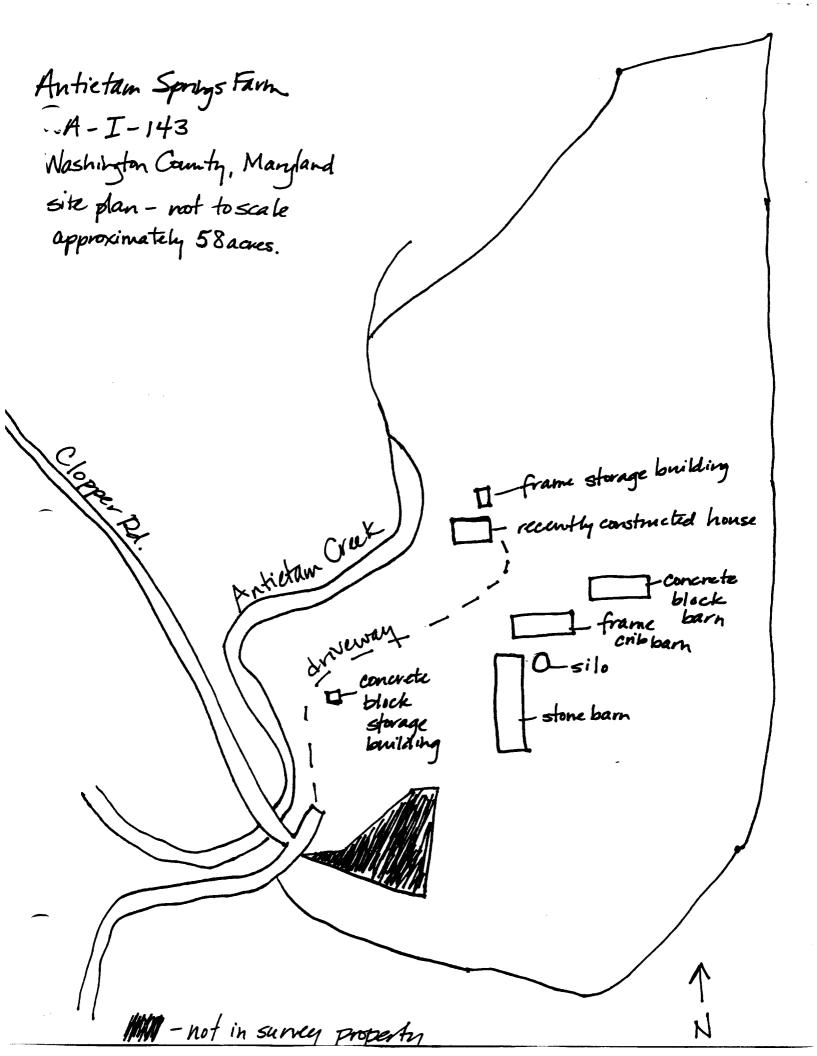
Compounding the loss of integrity of the built resources on the site is the loss of the historic boundaries of the farm. Portions of the parcel were sold for the construction of new residences in recent years. Because the site no longer conveys itself as an eighteenth-century farmstead and has no later period of significance, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

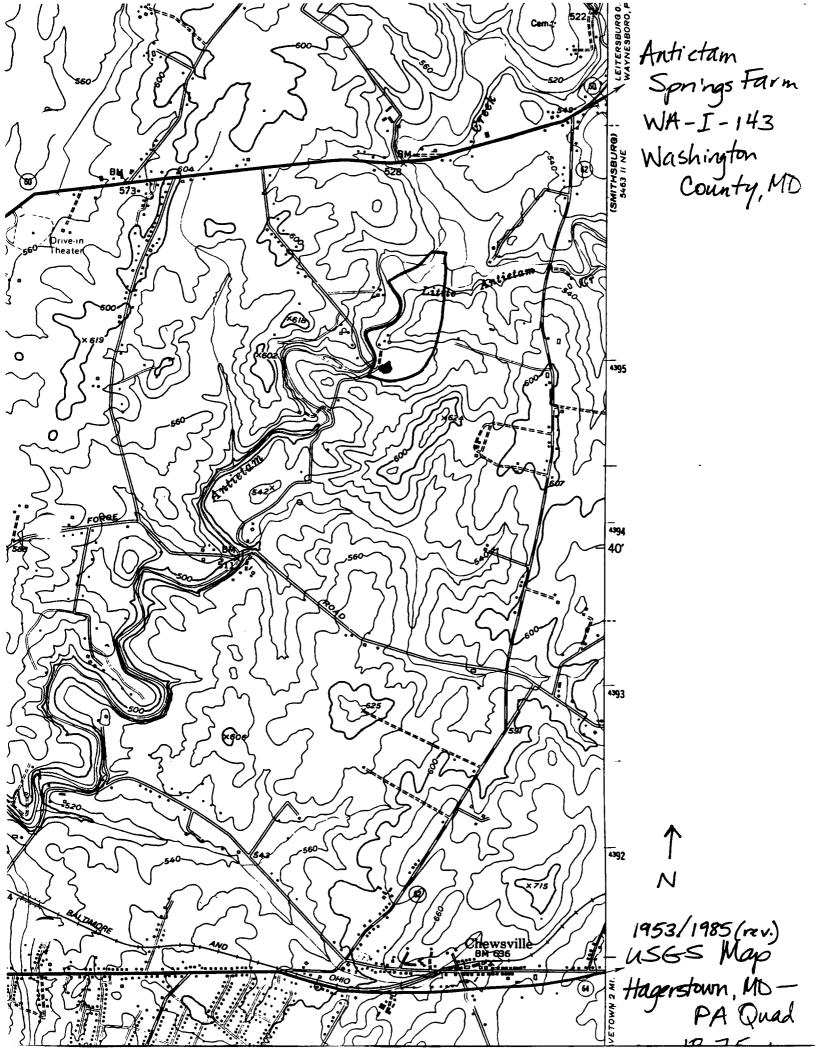
Addendum Prepared by:

Stephanie Foell, Judith H. Robinson, Architectural Historians Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1909 Q Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20009 202.234.2333 17 May 1999

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Eligibility Recommended Eligibility Not Recommended	
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WA-I-143 District 9 Map 38 Parcel 5

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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Antietam Springs Farm is located east of Clopper Road and the Antietam Creek about one mile south of Maryland Route 60, the Leitersburg-Hagerstown Pike. The house is situated on a rise of ground above the Antietam and faces east.

The structure is a two story, four bay log and frame dwelling covered with coved board siding. The walls are set on low fieldstone foundations. The south half of the structure is of log construction while the north half is framed.

Openings appear to be spaced rather evenly in the front elevation. Windows have uniform treatment, displaying simple board facing. All have six over six pane double hung sashes, some with old irregular panes.

Entrances are located in the two center bays of the front elevation. Both are treated similarly to the windows with Ca. 1900 period trim. A small shed roofed entrance porch extends across the two entrance bays.

The roof is covered with slate and extends beyond the end walls. The eaves are finished with plain boxing. Small brick chimneys with corbels at their tops are located inside each gable end.

The interior of the house is bisected by a log wall running from the front to the rear elevations. To this, it appears, the frame section was added.

The cellar of the log section displays massive framing for the first floor of the structure. Heavy squared timber joists are laid side by side. Above these is a layer of loosely mortared stones upon which rests the flooring for the first story. Narrow openings were present in the foundation walls. Below these were indentations or shelves constructed into the foundation walls.

The house appears to be in excellent condition and stands on a tract containing 78.6 acres. Grading around the house was done by the present owners.

East of the house is a large stone bank barn. Set in its west gable is a round ventilator opening around which are carefully cut stones. Below this is a tablet also topped with finished stones. The tablet is inscribed with the date 1792.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major area of significance of Antietam Springs Farm is its architecture. It is also important for the record it provides of the prominence of agriculture in Washington County during the late 18th century.

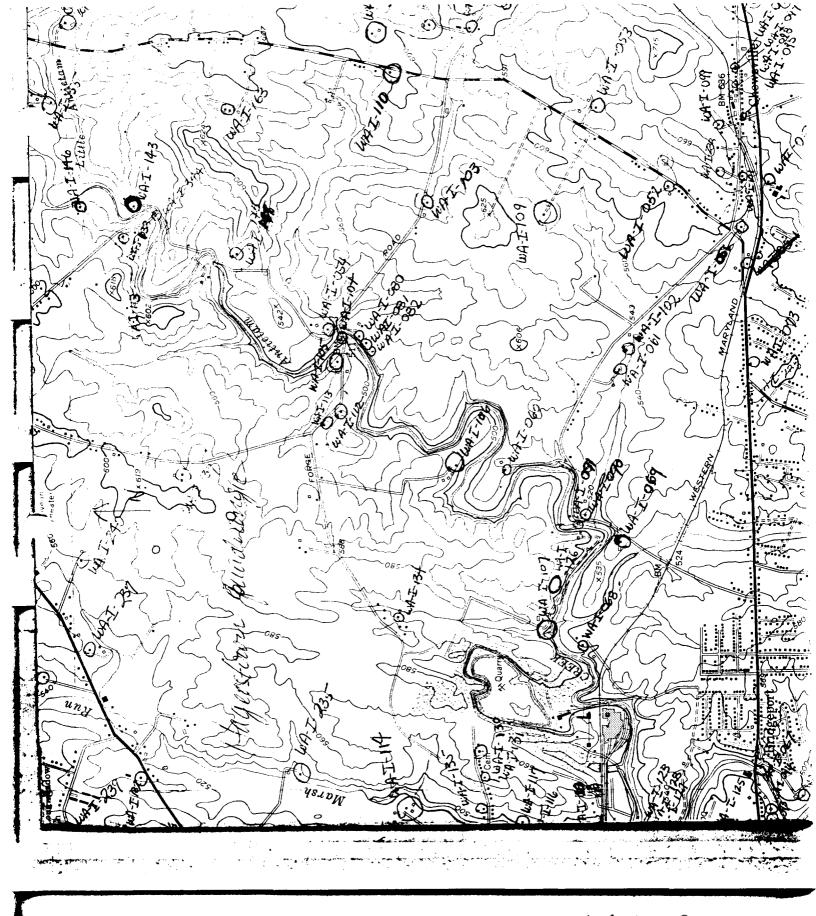
The log portion of the house is an example of a major architectural group in Washington County. Log was used extensively as a building material in the area from the earliest days of settlement to late in the nineteenth century. Many log buildings remain in use today in Washington County, covered by various forms of siding or bricks. The log portion of this house would appear to date from the 18th century. The massive floor construction which was observed in the cellar appears to be linked with 18th century structures in the County.

The property was for a number of years in the Hartle family. The deeds could be traced only as far back as 1865 when Jacob Miller, his wife Fanny and Susan Funk sold 150 acres to Susan Hartle Marker (Liber LBN1, Folio 227). The property included parts of the following tracts: the "Resurvey On Chester," "Surveyor's Last Shift," "Resurvey On Well Taught," described in the deed as granted to George Hartle, "Little Timber," "Good Friday," "Hartle's Lot," "Fry's Lot," and "Scant Timber." The property descended in the Hartle family to Samuel Hartle who acquried the farm in 1875. It was sold by his heirs in 1916. According to Herbert C. Bell's, History Of Leitersburg District, George Hartle purchased in 1760, 52 acres of "Resurvey On Well Taught" from Michael Letherman. By the time of his death in 1776, Hartle owned 350 acres. Bell, Writing in 1908, stated that it was believed that George Hartle built the house on the farm of Samuel Hartle.1

The stone barn is significant as a dated example of such a structure. Built in 1792, it is one of only a few known 18th century barns in Washington County. Stone was used extensively as a building material for barns through the first half of the 19th century. The barn is also important for the record it provides of agricultural practices in the area during the late 18th century. Its large size suggests the importance of agriculture at that time.

Herbert C. Bell, <u>History Of Leitersburg District</u>, Leitersburg, Md: the author. (1908) p. 30.

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